

**AIRPORT CONSTRUCTION**

**Detroit Metropolitan Wayne County Airport**

Work is continuing on the new Midfield Terminal at Detroit Metro. The new terminal will be over 2 million square feet, with 74 gates and a 13,000 space parking deck. The anticipated opening is late 2001.

**Flint-Bishop Airport**

Work will begin soon on a \$9.6 million terminal project. The project includes terminal expansion, four jet loading bridges, and additional parking.

**Manistee County-Blacker Airport**

A new runway is being built along the original alignment, but shifted to the south. This will allow for proper design separation standards and an instrument landing system (ILS).

**AVIATION LEGISLATION**

**GOVERNOR ADDRESSES NEED FOR GREATER AIRPORT FUNDS:**

Governor John Engler wrote to U.S. House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee Chairman Bud Shuster on June 9 concerning the critical need for a high-level funding for the reauthorization of the AIP. The governor supports the concept of taking the aviation trust fund "off budget" or otherwise protecting aviation taxes as a revenue stream for funding airport infrastructure needs vital for our economy, efficiency of air travel and public safety. Chairman Shuster is sponsor of AIR-21, a bill to provide higher levels of funding for the AIP and take the aviation trust fund "off budget." A copy of the Governor's letter was provided to all members of the Michigan Congressional Delegation.

**AIRPORT IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM:**

Congress has extended the Airport Improvement Program, at the 1998 level, until August 6. With this third extension, the funding approved for this year's program is approximately 90% of that in 1998.

**GEHMAN TESTIFIES BEFORE CONGRESS ON AIRPORT FUNDING:**

In his June 9 testimony before the House Transportation and Infrastructure Subcommittee on Aviation, Bureau of Aeronautics Director William E. Gehman

**Sawyer International Airport--Gwinn**

Plans are continuing for Marquette County Airport's move to Sawyer. The terminal building should be completed by mid-August. The terminal dedication is scheduled for September 25.

**MBS International--Saginaw**

A new combined Administration and Airport Rescue and Firefighting (ARFF) building has been completed. Dedication was held June 17.

**Chippewa County International Airport**

Plans are underway to construct a new crosswind runway (9/27), which is anticipated to be completed this summer.

called for an increase in federal support for aviation infrastructure.

Gehman, who also chairs the National Association of State Aviation Officials (NASAO), presented committee members with the Michigan Department of Transportation's five-year aeronautics plan outlining 265 projects proposed by 100 public use airports in Michigan.

"These are not pie in the sky projects; they are necessary improvements to be certain that our aviation infrastructure meets the needs of the 21<sup>st</sup> century." Gehman said. "As the head of Michigan's Bureau of Aeronautics, I can tell you that Michigan communities depend on the airport system to provide access to business and corporate development, tourism, and personal travel availability around the state."

**AVIATION LEGISLATION:** On June 15, the U.S. House overwhelmingly passed HR100 (AIR-21), the House Aviation Reauthorization bill. This five-year bill will provide for higher levels of aviation funding. It will also take the Aviation Trust Fund off the unified budget process and phases in changes to the slot system used to govern access at Chicago O'Hare International and other slot controlled airports. Action on aviation legislation in the Senate is anticipated soon.

**AIR SERVICE UPDATE**

**Detroit Metropolitan Wayne County Airport:**

- Lufthansa began non-stop daily service to Frankfurt on March 28 with Airbus A340 aircraft.
- Northwest Airlines initiated non-stop service between Detroit and Anchorage Alaska beginning May 1, 1999, with Boeing 757 aircraft.
- Northwest also announced the addition of three daily non-stop flights to Portland, Maine effective June 2. The service will be operated with DC9 and AVRO RJ 85 jets.

**Flint-Bishop Airport:**

- Beginning May 1, Northwest Airlines replaced 2 DC-9 flights to Detroit with Boeing 727 aircraft, adding 70 seats. The change affects the 6:50 am and 1:40 pm departures.

**Grand Rapids - Kent County International:**

- US Airways Express/Chautauqua Airlines began new direct service to Washington Dulles airport on April 7. The service consists of two daily flights with 34-passenger Saab 340 aircraft.
- American Eagle will begin new regional jet service between Grand Rapids and Dallas/Fort Worth on August 26. The twice-daily service will use 50-seat ERJ-145 regional jets.

**Muskegon - Muskegon County Airport:**

- On May 18, United Express began operating 2 of their 4 daily flights to Chicago with 30-passenger Embraer Brasilias.

**BUREAU OF AERONAUTICS GOALS:**

Bureau goals have been developed for each of its external product areas. For the air service product area, the goal is to "Match a community's level of air service with the maximum that the market will profitably support." Several implementation steps are, or will soon be underway. These include an Air Service Plan which will identify methods to retain existing air service and opportunities for enhanced service. Other implementation actions include continuing efforts to improve access to Chicago O'Hare International Airport by securing changes to the High Density Rule (slots), and the Essential Air Service Program. Customers' needs will be periodically reviewed through surveys to ensure the Air Service Program is properly focused.

The Air Service Program continues to use services of The Boyd Group/ASRC in assessing service needs and is working with Chambers, Conlon & Hartwell Inc. of Washington, D.C., to help address changes needed at the federal level.

**Traverse City - Cherry Capital Airport:**

- Effective June 15, Northwest Airlink began providing regional jet service between Traverse City and Minneapolis, with 69 passenger Avro RJ85 aircraft.

**Kalamazoo/Battle Creek International Airport:**

- On July 1, Comair will operate four of its five daily departures to Cincinnati with the Canadair regional jet.

**Iron Mountain-Dickinson County Airport:**

- Effective May 18, United Express began using the 30-passenger Brasilia on all service to Chicago O'Hare. The Brasilia is anticipated to continue to be used throughout the summer on this route.

**Northwest Airlines** established a fare reduction program entitled "Fly Michigan." The program offers \$69 one-way fares between Detroit and outstate Michigan. "Fly Michigan" began February 2, 1999.

Northwest Airlines was awarded 6 weekly frequencies to Shanghai, China by the USDOT (Order OST-00-5539). This was a result of the US/China aviation bilateral agreement signed in April. Four frequencies are available for use now, with two more beginning April 1, 2000. These flights are not currently operating.

**Skyway Airlines** was awarded the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Certificate of Excellence Diamond Award, which recognizes exemplary maintenance practices.

AIR SERVICE PROGRAM

**FLYER**

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Michigan Department of Transportation  
Bureau of Aeronautics 517-335-9283



**AIRPORT AWARENESS ACTIVITIES**

**Benton Harbor** has participated in the following community events to increase knowledge of available services: Blossomtime Festival, held May 1, and "Operation Safe Baby" on May 13.

**Detroit City Airport** is advertising Pro Air service through billboard advertising, the Chamber of Commerce, and airport newsletters.

**Ironwood** is developing an Internet webpage that can be accessed through local Chamber of Commerce kiosks. The airport and its services will be the subject of an "Our Town" feature which will be broadcast over the local CBS affiliate.

**Sault Ste Marie** developed a new 30-second TV ad highlighting the scheduled air service provided by Northwest Airlink.

**Northwest Airlink** has developed newspaper advertising for use by Michigan airports. The purpose is to improve brand awareness of the Northwest Airlink services.

**CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT & EQUIPMENT**

A new Air Service Program "Call for Projects" was issued June 16. This "Call" is slightly different--items to be covered will be safety-related, handicap accessibility, and Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements. Due to available funding, this Call for Projects is limited to airports annually enplaning less than 50,000 scheduled service passengers.

**CONGRATULATIONS TO HARVEY SETTER**

Harvey Setter retired as Delta County's Airport Manager on May 14, 1999. Harvey had been the manager for 15 years and certainly will be missed. We wish him the very best in his retirement!

Mr. Richard Severson, formerly manager of Menominee-Marquette Twin County Airport, has become manager of Delta County Airport.

**Y2K UPDATE**

As mentioned in the Winter **FLYER**, AERO has been working to increase awareness about the Year 2000 ("Y2K") computer problem. Continuing with that effort, AERO recently distributed Y2K "toolkits" to 117 public use airports throughout the state. The toolkits contained a wealth of information on the Y2K computer problem and recommended approaches to inventory and remediate non-compliant systems.

In addition, we requested that those airports complete a survey to help us determine their Y2K compliance status. A 70% response rate was received. Preliminary results indicate the majority of those airports are informed about Y2K and have developed a plan to address their Y2K issues.

Airport sponsors interested in learning more about the Y2K problem are encouraged to visit AERO's website at: <http://www.mdot.state.mi.us/aero/>, or contact Matt Brinker at 517-335-9918.

**FONTANA TRIBUTE**

At its July 15 meeting, the Michigan Aeronautics Commission will pay tribute to Mr. Mario Fontana, who throughout his lifetime was devoted to the advancement of aviation in Iron Mountain and throughout the state. He became Ford Airport's first manager in 1930. Mr. Fontana was a Michigan Aeronautics Commissioner for over 20 years. He was enshrined in the Michigan Aviation Hall of Fame in 1988 and the Michigan Transportation Hall of Honor in 1994. Mr. Fontana passed away December 24, 1998.

**1999 Michigan Aeronautics Commission Schedule**

July 15, 1999	Iron Mountain
September 15, 1999*	Thompsonville
November 4, 1999	Lansing

\* Joint meeting with the Michigan Association of Airport Executives

Call 517-335-9943 for further information.



Pictured above is the new Administration and ARFF building at MBS International Airport in Saginaw. See highlight inside.

**PASSENGER STATISTICS:**

In 1998, 35.5 million scheduled service passengers flew in Michigan, representing a 2.4% increase. Four airports had significant increases: Alpena, Detroit City, Flint, and Sault Ste Marie. The Alpena and Sault Ste Marie increases are a result of new Northwest Airlink services.

In the coming months passenger statistics will be available on the Internet through the MDOT/AERO web site. Watch future **FLYERs** for more details.